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QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

1. Through what three channels may man experience God?
2. Describe Job's experience of God in the universe.
3. What besides its immensity suggests God in the universe?
4. Does the study of astronomy diminish or increase one's sense of God?
5. Name three psalms other than those in the study which show an experience of God through nature.
6. What part does faith play in our ability to respond to God in nature?
7. Give some references which show how closely Jesus associated God with nature.
8. How did Isaiah interpret God in the events of his times?
9. Do you agree or disagree with the writer of the book of Deuteronomy in his theory that the performance of national duty always brings national prosperity?
10. What is the meaning of Dan. 2:31–35?
11. If we agree with Paul that we may participate with God in the making of history, what opportunity can we see in the present?
12. Name several men outside the Bible whom you think have so participated with God.
13. Against what tendencies should we guard in the interpretation of God in history?
14. Put in your own words the religious meaning of the Pilgrim Fathers.
15. In what qualities of personal communion does the writer of Pss. 139, 42, 43 find satisfaction?
16. What upheld Jeremiah in the hard tasks which he believed that God had given him to do?
17. Why did temptation have no power over Jesus?
18. What persuades us that the God of Jesus and of Paul is as close to us and as responsive to our needs as he was to theirs?
19. Of what value is it to study the religious experiences of men of the past?
20. What does God mean to you?

SUGGESTIONS TO LEADERS OF CLASSES

The old-fashioned experience meeting has become a thing of the past. Even the pledge of the young people's societies, that each member contribute to every meeting, is no longer interpreted as an opportunity to talk of one's experience. Yet there were certain aspects of these which we miss from our religious life today. Can we by interchange of experience in connection with a *study course* help to enhance the reality of religion and promote a better mutual understanding between Christians? Many experiences of God are not interpreted as such to those who pass through them. To talk over these experiences might help to their right interpretation. We would suggest therefore that the two meetings of this month be particularly informal and that members of the group be encouraged to express themselves freely. The first meeting will probably be more impersonal than the second, since the study proceeds from the God of the universe to the God of the inner life.

PROGRAM I

A program for the first meeting may present the following topics:

1. Reading of Gen. 1:1—2:4. The leader of the group may read the chapter, asking the members to respond in unison with the closing words of each section, "And there was evening, and there was morning," etc.

2. Some astronomical facts which make God seem more wonderful to us than to the writer of Genesis.

3. Examples from the Bible and elsewhere of men who have come into touch with God in the contemplation of nature.

4. God in the life of nations: examples of historical events leading to great changes for good in the life of a nation or nations.

Question for discussion: (1) What in nature gives us the keenest sense of God? or (2) What in the history of our own nation suggests most clearly the hand of God in history?

PROGRAM II

Each member as well as the leader may bring in writing a statement of "The Time When I First Became Conscious of God." The statements should be unsigned. They may be read by the leader and discussed at his pleasure.

Further discussions may be:

1. How early in life may one experience inner communion with God?

2. How much has been accomplished by men or women who talked about God and their experience of him?

3. Can one discuss his religious experiences and talk freely about religious matters without being "pious" in the objectionable sense?

4. The hymn which I like best and why.

5. What prayer means to me.

Reference Reading

Clarke: *Can I Believe in God the Father?*

Jones: *Social Law in the Spiritual World.*

Faunce: *What Does Christianity Mean?* (especially Lecture II, "The Meaning of God").

Hocking: *The Meaning of God in Human Experience.*